

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 19, 2008, has been received and carefully considered. In this response, claims 1, 5, 11, and 21 have been amended. Entry of the amendments to claims 1, 5, 11, and 21 is respectfully requested. Reconsideration of the current rejections in the present application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

I. THE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-9, 11, AND 22-24

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-9, 11, and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. This rejection is hereby respectfully traversed.

The Examiner asserts that the limitation "receiving a current packet at a first network element," as presently claimed was not disclosed in the original specification of the present application. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant respectfully submits that step 100 as shown in Figure 1, discloses a signal packet may be received by a network element, wherein the network element may be a computer, a server, or a

content-aware/router having one or more connections to a computer and/or communications network. See, e.g., Specification, page 8, lines 5-10. Also, step 200 as shown in Figure 2, discloses an IP packet may be received by a network element. See, e.g., Specification page 11, lines 4-7. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the original specification of the present application does provide sufficient support for the limitation "receiving a current packet at a first network element," as presently claimed. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that as stated in MPEP § 2163.02, the fundamental factual inquiry is whether a claim defines an invention that is clearly conveyed to those skilled in the art at the time the application was filed. The subject matter of the claim need not be described literally (i.e., using the same terms or in *haec verba*) in order for the disclosure to satisfy the description requirement.

Regarding claims 2-9, 11, and 22-24, these claims are dependent upon independent claim 1. Thus, since the written description rejection of independent claim 1 should be withdrawn as discussed above, the written description rejection of claims 2-9, 11, and 22-24 should also be withdrawn at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the aforementioned written description rejection of claims 1-9, 11, and 22-24 be withdrawn.

II. THE INDEFINITENESS REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-9, 11, AND 22-24

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-9, 11, and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. This rejection is hereby respectfully traversed.

The Examiner asserts that the subject matter "a network element" is introduced twice and therefore it is not clear whether the two "network elements" are referring to the same network element or otherwise. Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, in order to forward the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite "receiving a current packet at a first network element" and "routing the current packet to a second network element." Accordingly, in view of the amended claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is definite and particularly points out the claimed subject matter.

Regarding claims 2-9 and 22-24, these claims are dependent upon independent claim 1. Thus, since the indefinite rejection

of independent claim 1 should be withdrawn as discussed above, the indefinite rejection of claims 2-9 and 22-24 should also be withdrawn at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 1.

Also, the Examiner asserts that claim 11 is indefinite, because it is not clear whether the claim is directed to a processor readable medium or an apparatus that comprises at least one processor readable medium. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 recites "at least one processor readable storage medium" and therefore claim 11 is directed to "at least one processor readable storage medium," as presently recited in claim 11. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that the specification recites "one or more processors operating in accordance with stored instructions may implement the functions associated with source address tracing in accordance with the present invention as described above. If such is the case, it is within the scope of the present invention that such instructions may be stored on one or more processor readable carriers (e.g., a magnetic disk)." See, page 19, lines 2-9. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 is definite and particularly points out the claimed subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the aforementioned indefiniteness rejection of claims 1-9, 11, and 22-24 be withdrawn.

III. THE OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 3-6, 9, 12, 14-17, AND 20-22

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3-6, 9, 12, 14-17, and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peng et al. ("Peng") ("Detecting Distributed Denial of Service Attacks Using Source IP Address Monitoring") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,846 to Kirby et al. ("Kirby"). This rejection is hereby respectfully traversed.

Under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the Patent Office bears the burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness. In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 1074 (Fed. Cir. 1988). There are four separate factual inquiries to consider in making an obviousness determination: (1) the scope and content of the prior art; (2) the level of ordinary skill in the field of the invention; (3) the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art; and (4) the existence of any objective evidence, or "secondary considerations," of non-obviousness. Graham v. John Deere Co., 383 U.S. 1, 17-18 (1966); see also KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 127 S. Ct. 1727 (2007). An "expansive and flexible approach" should be applied when determining obviousness based

on a combination of prior art references. KSR, 127 S. Ct. at 1739. However, a claimed invention combining multiple known elements is not rendered obvious simply because each element was known independently in the prior art. Id. at 1741. Rather, there must still be some "reason that would have prompted" a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the elements in the specific way that he or she did. Id.; In re Icon Health & Fitness, Inc., 496 F.3d 1374, 1380 (Fed. Cir. 2007). Also, modification of a prior art reference may be obvious only if there exists a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill to make the change. KSR, 127 S. Ct. at 1740-41.

Regarding claims 1, 12, and 21, the Examiner asserts that Peng in view of Kirby discloses the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees. In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that Peng fails to disclose, or even suggest, a method for tracing source addresses of packets comprising "querying a storage module of the first network element to identify at least one source address of a previously received packet," as presently claimed. In contrast, Peng merely discloses a hash table used to record IP addresses that appear in a current time interval Δ_n . See, e.g., Section A, Second paragraph, lines 3-5. Nowhere does Peng disclose, or even suggest, that detection engine queries hash table "to

identify at least one source address of a previously received packet," as presently claimed. At best, Peng merely discloses comparing current counts of the hash table with an IP address database to calculate how many new IP addresses have appeared in a time slot. Additionally, if the number of packets per IP address is larger than a certain threshold, an alarm is set to indicate a bandwidth attack. See, e.g., Section A, Second Paragraph, lines 8-12. Thus, Peng at best, discloses querying the hash table in order to determine current counts of new IP address of the hash table and fails to disclose, or even suggest, "querying a storage module of the first network element to identify at least one source address of a previously received packet," as presently claimed.

Accordingly, is it respectfully submitted that claims 1, 12 and 21 are allowable over Peng et al.

Also, the Examiner asserts, and Applicant agrees, that Peng fails to disclose, or even suggest, "routing the current packet to a second network element if at least part of a source address of the current packet matches at least part of the at least one source address of the previously received packet," as presently claimed. In contrast, Peng discloses adding legitimate IP addresses to an IP Address Database (IAD), recording IP addresses that appear in a current time interval in a hash table

along with a number of IP packets and a time stamp of the most recent IP packet for each IP address, and comparing the IAD to the hash table to determine the number of new IP addresses that have appeared in the current time interval. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Peng merely discloses recording the packet in the hash table and not "routing the current packet to a second network element," as presently claimed. Moreover, the source IP address monitoring (SIM) scheme of Peng merely passively monitors the packets and fails to actively rout the packets.

The Examiner asserts that Kirby remedies the deficiencies of Peng and concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify the system of Peng to route the current packet to its destination when the source address of the packet matches an existing entry stored in the hash table in order to prevent attach traffic from being forwarded. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that Peng teaches away from Kirby. As mentioned above, Peng discloses adding legitimate IP addresses to an IP Address Database (IAD), recording IP addresses that appear in a current time interval in a hash table along with a number of IP packets and a time stamp of the most recent IP packet for each IP

address, and comparing the IAD to the hash table to determine the number of new IP addresses that have appeared in the current time interval. In contrast, Kirby discloses an authorization controller 102 attached to a network port of a modified router, wherein the modified router passes to the authorization controller only packets to types (e.g., SYN, FIN) which relate to setting up, terminating, and otherwise managing a packet connection. See, e.g., column 3, lines 58-63. Therefore, Peng discloses calculating a number of new IP addresses that appear in a time slot, while Kirby discloses routing control of specific types of packets. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize the routing control (e.g., specific types of packets) of Kirby in order to calculate a number of new IP addresses that appear in a time slot of Peng.

In view of the foregoing, is it respectfully submitted that claims 1, 12, and 21 are allowable over Peng et al.

Regarding claims 3-6, 9, 14-17, 20, and 22, these claims are dependent upon independent claims 1 and 12. Thus, since independent claims 1 and 12 should be allowable as discussed above, claims 3-6, 9, 14-17, 20, and 22 should also be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claims 1

and 12. Moreover, these claims recite additional features which are not disclosed, or even suggested, by the cited references taken either alone or in combination.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the aforementioned obviousness rejection of claims 1, 3-6, 9, 12, 14-17, and 20-22 be withdrawn.

IV. THE OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION OF CLAIMS 2, 13, 23, AND 24

On page 6 of the Office Action, claims 2, 13, 23, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peng et al. ("Peng") ("Detecting Distributed Denial of Service Attacks Using Source IP Address Monitoring") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,846 to Kirby et al. ("Kirby") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,665,297 to Hariguchi et al. ("Hariguchi"). This rejection is hereby respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the aforementioned obviousness rejection of claims 2, 13, 23, and 24 has become moot in view of the deficiencies of the primary references (i.e., Peng and Kirby) as discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 12. That is, claims 2, 13, 23, and 24 are dependent upon independent claims 1 and 12 and thus inherently incorporate all of the limitations of independent claims 1 and 12. Also, the secondary reference (i.e.,

Hariguchi) fails to disclose, or even suggest, the deficiencies of the primary references as discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 12. Indeed, the Examiner does not even assert such. Thus, the combination of the secondary reference with the primary references also fails to disclose, or even suggest, the deficiencies of the primary references as discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 12. Accordingly, claims 2, 13, 23, and 24 should be allowable over the combination of the secondary reference with the primary references at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claims 1 and 12. Moreover, claims 2, 13, 23, and 24 recite additional features which are not disclosed, or even suggested, by the cited references taken either alone or in combination.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the aforementioned obviousness rejection of claims 2, 13, 23, and 24 be withdrawn.

V. THE OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION OF CLAIMS 7, 8, 18, AND 19

On page 9 of the Office Action, claims 7, 8, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peng et al. ("Detecting Distributed Denial of Service Attacks Using Source IP Address Monitoring") in view of Lingafelt ("Lingafelt") (U.S. Patent Application Publication No.

US2002/0147925A1). This rejection is hereby respectfully traversed.

First and foremost, Applicant respectfully submits that the aforementioned obviousness rejection of claims 7, 8, 18, and 19 is improper because the obviousness rejection of claims 7, 8, 18, and 19 fails to incorporate Kirby reference, which was the basis for the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 and 12 from which claims 7, 8, 18, and 19 depend. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdraw of the aforementioned obviousness rejection of claims 7, 8, 18, and 19.

Also, it is respectfully submitted that the aforementioned obviousness rejection of claims 7, 8, 18, and 19 has become moot in view of the deficiencies of the primary reference (i.e., Peng) as discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 12. That is, claims 7, 8, 18, and 19 are dependent upon independent claims 1 and 12 and thus inherently incorporate all of the limitations of independent claims 1 and 12. Also, the secondary reference (i.e., Lingafelt) fails to disclose, or even suggest, the deficiencies of the primary reference as discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 12. Indeed, the Examiner does not even assert such. Thus, the combination of the secondary reference with the primary reference also fails to disclose, or even suggest, the deficiencies of the primary

reference as discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 12. Accordingly, claims 7, 8, 18, and 19 should be allowable over the combination of the secondary reference with the primary reference at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claims 1 and 12. Moreover, claims 7, 8, 18, and 19 recite additional features which are not disclosed, or even suggested, by the cited references taken either alone or in combination.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the aforementioned obviousness rejection of claims 7, 8, 18, and 19 be withdrawn.

VI. THE OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION OF CLAIM 11

On page 10 of the Office Action, claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peng ("Detecting Distributed Denial of Service Attacks Using Source IP Address Monitoring") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,846 to Kirby et al. ("Kirby") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,852,630 to Langberg et al. ("Langberg"). This rejection is hereby respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the aforementioned obviousness rejection of claim 11 has become moot in view of the deficiencies of the primary references (i.e., Peng and Kirby) as

discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. That is, claim 11 is dependent upon independent claim 1 and thus inherently incorporates all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Also, the secondary reference (i.e., Langberg) fails to disclose, or even suggest, the deficiencies of the primary references as discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. Indeed, the Examiner does not even assert such. Thus, the combination of the secondary reference with the primary references also fails to disclose, or even suggest, the deficiencies of the primary references as discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. Accordingly, claim 11 should be allowable over the combination of the secondary reference with the primary references at least by virtue of its dependency on independent claim 1. Moreover, claim 11 recites additional features which are not disclosed, or even suggested, by the cited references taken either alone or in combination.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the aforementioned obviousness rejection of claim 11 be withdrawn.

VII. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an

early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0206, and please credit any excess fees to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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